

REMARKS

Claims 56-103, 118-129, and 134-137 were pending in the application. Claims 56, 73, 84, and 85 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled. Therefore, claims 56-103, 118-129, and 134-137 remain pending in this application.

Statement of Substance of Interview

Applicant thanks the Examiner for extending the courtesy of conducting telephone interviews on October 13 and October 16, 2009. Participating in the interviews were Examiner Truong and Applicant's undersigned representative. Support for the claims and Applicant's proposed amendments were discussed. The Examiner agreed that the claim amendments and remarks provided herein will overcome the present rejections and will result in the pending claims being allowable.

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 56-103, 118-129, and 134-137 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that:

Nowhere in the specification discloses the uses of 'message including the first, second and the third message' and 'the received messages include a third message, wherein said third message includes information corresponding to a second account of a information distribution service, and wherein the second account corresponds to a second user of said information distribution service, wherein the second account has been associated with the first account, and wherein said first account is independent from said second account.'

Office Action at 2-3. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection. However, in an effort to bring the claims to issue more rapidly, amendments are presented here that are believed to render the rejection moot. In view of the present claim amendments and the remarks below, withdrawal of the present rejections of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 56 has been amended to recite:

wherein the received messages further include a third message, wherein said third message includes information corresponding to a second account of said information distribution service, and wherein the second account corresponds to a second user of said information distribution service, **wherein the information distribution service stores information indicating that the second account is permitted to share information with the first account**, and wherein said first account is independent from said second account;

Support for this feature can be found in the originally filed specification. For example, the specification teaches:

The Your Families portion of this site embraces the concept that all people simultaneously belong to more than one family. In addition to an immediate family, we all have extended family and friends, work family, social "club" family, religious family, and many other families.

Specification at page 24, lines 12-15 (emphasis added). The specification further teaches:

The Your Families section allows groups of people to define themselves as a family and share selective information with one another. Common examples of families include: the people who live in a house, an extended family, a spouse's side of the family, bowling league buddies, a user's kid's little league team, workplace peers, a neighborhood association or block-watch, and a church.

Each family 220 can share selective portions of an up-to-date calendar, address/phone book, and to-do list, and can have the ability to send announcements, memos, postcards, letters on stationary, one-page newsletters, and notices of items for sale/trade/free.

The power and simplicity of this approach is that these notices are only delivered to an individual who wishes to receive them and only from site members. This essentially eliminates spamming and increases the personal trust in the veracity of the announcement.

Specification at page 26, lines 6-16 (emphasis added). The specification also teaches:

Block diagram 200 in an exemplary embodiment, illustrates a system including a user 102 and a real-time social network service provider 204. Block diagram 200 can further include associations 208a, 208b, and 208c and families 224a, 224b, and 224c. The block diagram 200 can include a real-time social network service provider 204 database 164,166 that can receive user profile information and family definitions in step 210 and sharing controls conveyed in step 212. Multiple associations 108, 208 can in step 202 convey updates of the user profile information,

and related information. The RTSN 204 can in step 206 provide cumulative aggregate profile information by associate. Specifically, affiliated association 208a can be conveyed aggregate user profile information in step 214. Similarly, for unaffiliated association 208b and other association 208c, aggregate user profile information 216 and 218 can be conveyed, respectively. Block diagram 200 can also include families 224a, 224b, and 224c and determinations of shared access 222a, 222b, and 222c which can allow personal information such as, e.g., a calendar, a to-do list, an address book and messages, to be shared as shown in step 220.

Specification at page 12, lines 9-21 (emphasis added). The specification further teaches:

Your Home can allow the user 102 to preview what is going on in the user's own world. By contrast, a portal 104 tells the user what is happening in the outside world, or an organization's site tells you about itself. The "Your Home" site focuses on the individual's day-to-day routine and associations 208. That is, most people are part of many associations 208 whether they realize it or not. For example, they may be associated with a church, a parent-teacher organization, a work union, and workplace colleagues.

Specification at page 23, lines 11-16 (emphasis added).

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 56 and the claims that depend therefrom comply with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Independent claims 73, 84, and 85 have been similarly amended, and therefore those claims and the claims that depend therefrom comply with the written description requirement. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and removal of the present rejections.

CONCLUSION:

Applicant respectfully submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above-referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5957-71800/EM.

Also filed herewith are the following items:

☒ Request for Continued Examination

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 26, 2009

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